

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1, at line 2:

This application is a U.S. national entry of International Application No. PCT/US2005/005066, filed on February 17, 2005, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/546,540, filed February 19, 2004.

Please insert the following new paragraphs after the claims, on a separate page 85:

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to altering the levels of Th2 cytokine production, and in particular, biasing the cytokine expression profile towards Th2 cytokine production through mitogen-activated protein kinase/ERK kinase kinase 1 (MEKK1), the screening of agents that increase Th2 cytokine production, and the treatment of Th1 associated autoimmune diseases *in vivo*. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to agents including but not limited to reducing the activity of MEKK1, leading to increased levels of Th2 cytokine production.